

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 11th May 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1440. The following is taken from the *Indian Mirror* :—

The Amir's order for a battery of Krupp guns.

The Amir of Afghanistan has lately ordered a battery of Krupp guns, and a part payment of six and-a-half lakhs of rupees has already been made on account of the same. The guns are to be delivered in India in August next. What does it mean? Is there a possibility of a war in the near future? The same announcement is also made in the *Bengalee*.

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd May 1901.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1441. The *Bengalee* complains of the prevalence of thefts in the town of Agarpara, and mentions that on the 26th ultimo, a theft was unsuccessfully attempted in the house of Babu Bhupatti Mukerji.

Thefts in Agarpara.

BENGALÉE,
4th May 1901.

NOTE.—The District Superintendent has been directed to report on this complaint.

1442. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes the judgment of a case, Emperor *versus* Dukha Nibaran Bhattacharji, in which a lad of respectable family was arrested on a charge of petty theft and kept in *hajat*. The Magistrate wished to release the boy on bail, but the District Superintendent represented that the Sub-Inspector was opposed to accused's being released on bail, as, if he were, he would not give up the stolen property. The Magistrate yielded, and "an innocent boy was allowed to rot in *hajat*."

Police rule in Burdwan.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th May 1901.

When the case came on for trial the boy was discharged, the trying Magistrate declaring there was not a tittle of evidence against him.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

1443. The *Bengalee* repeats that the judgment of the High Court in the Noakhali murder case has caused great disappointment, and the whole country feels that Mr. Pennell has been most unjustly dealt with in it. The most disappointing part of all is that which deals with Mr. Reily's conduct, and it is a matter of great regret that the Judges should hold Mr. Reily not guilty, without considering the reasons given by the Sessions Judge for his opinion, or giving any reason for their own.

The Noakhali murder case.

BENGALÉE,
4th May 1901.

The article then mentions the charges made by Mr. Pennell against Mr. Reily, and remarks that if Mr. Pennell has been somewhat lavish in his allegations, he has not failed to quote chapter and verse. The same cannot be said of the High Court, who merely state that after careful examination of Mr. Reily's evidence, they cannot agree with Mr. Pennell, "whose judicial vision was clouded by extraneous circumstances." It is no wonder that the public should look upon the judgment of the High Court as both unjust and unsatisfactory. From first to last no reasons are given for upsetting Mr. Pennell's finding regarding the conduct of Mr. Reily.

As regards Mr. Pennell's interpretation of section 477, Criminal Procedure Code, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that "no right-thinking Judge would for a moment think that the word 'may' in that section imposes on him anything short of an absolutely imperative obligation."

1444. The *Bengalee* thinks the recent case in which a *bhisti* was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment, for wetting a lady with water from the hose with which he was watering the road, contains certain important side issues, which throw a flood of light upon the way in which things are managed in the subordinate Criminal Courts, and the inter-dependence and identity of the executive and judiciary.

It quotes the original letter of the lady's husband, and the orders of the Commissioner of Police and the District Magistrate, and would like to know why the letter ever came to be placed before the District Magistrate, and why the District Magistrate transferred the case from the file of Maulvi Seraj-ul-Huq

Wetting a lady.

BENGALÉE,
5th May 1901.

to that of an European Assistant Magistrate, without giving any reasons for doing so, as he was bound to do under section 428, Criminal Procedure Code.

(d)—Education.

INDIAN NATION,
9th April 1901.

1445. Referring to the Viceroy's speech at the Aligarh College, the *Indian Nation* remarks that "the College is undoubtedly doing good work, and deserves every encouragement." But it is "afraid that the officials from the Viceroy downwards attach an exaggerated importance to it. There are many Hindu institutions in Bengal which do at least as good educational work as that College: there are some which do very much better work, and yet they are scarcely even mentioned by eminent officials. There is the Metropolitan Institution, for instance, founded by the late Pundit Ishwara Chandra Vidyasagar. But we have never heard of this Calcutta College or any of its recent rivals ever mentioned by any official. It has never been visited by any; its founder's services have not been recognised. Government and its members pay little compliment to Muhammadans when they judge them by a lower standard than that applied to Hindus."

BENGAL, 4th May 1901.

1446. The *Bengalee* says that the educational policy of the present Government, with its reactionary character and spirit of centralisation, has excited the greatest alarm in the minds of the more thoughtful portion of the community. The reorganisation of the Text-Book Committee is simply a straw which shows which way the wind blows. For sometime past the Government of India has practically set its face against higher education. It is an open secret that the Government is seriously trying to convert the University into a department of the Administration.

BENGAL, 5th May 1901.

1447. The *Bengalee* thinks high English education, the freedom of the press, and local self-government followed by expansion of the Councils are the three gifts which make the English name honoured and respected in India. Quoting Macaulay's words that 'if there should ever come a day when European education would make the Indians crave for European institutions, it would be the proudest in the annals of England,' it says "The day has arrived. Educated Indians are importunate in their demand for admission to the free citizenship of England. But.....the demand is not treated with the sympathy which it deserves." It is regarded as the clamour of a microscopic minority, but it is forgotten that that minority includes the leaders of the community. The learned classes have always been the leaders of thought in India.

But it will not do to merely dwell upon the beneficence of the British rulers in teaching their language to the Indians. The gift must undergo its natural expansion.

Then follows a letter from a correspondent referring to the Viceroy's speech at Aligarh, and quoting figures to show the amount spent on education in India, the apparent object of which is to show that the sum spent on education is insufficient and might be increased.

(h)—General.

INDIAN NATION,
29th April 1901.

1448. Returning to the subject of the Budget, the *Indian Nation*, while bemoaning the distressing state of our public affairs, cannot help regarding it as a necessary evil after the sober and sympathetic words of the Lieutenant-Governor's summing up. "Whatever the condition of our Finances," says the *Nation*, "it is impossible to feel indignant with the administration after listening to Sir John Woodburn. His personality and his utterances have alike a charm, the secret of which some of his ministers, the Hon'ble Mr. Baker, for instance, would do well to study."

INDIAN NATION,
29th April 1901.

1449. The following paragraph appears in the *Indian Nation*:—
"It is curious that in the Quarterly Civil List for Bengal corrected up to the 1st April 1901, Mr. Pennell is described as 'suspended from his office on

March 1901. This is all right. There is nothing to show, however, that Mr. Reilly has been suspended. He is described as 'Officiating District Superintendent, Noakhali, officiating in the fifth grade.' At the same time there is Mr. T. O. Simpson 'officiating in the first grade, in charge of Noakhali, from February 1901.' The Civil List, of course, does not undergo revision by the Lieutenant-Governor. But those responsible for its preparation have certainly to explain why the suspension, if it has taken place, of Mr. Reilly, has not been entered in it. Has he been suspended, or has he not?"

1450. In the opinion of the *Indian Nation*, the question of granting extension of service to Government officers who have attained 55 years calls for final and early settlement. Government should take such a step as would effectually put a stop to complaints arising from a want of uniformity in the application of the rule. This would best be done by Government setting its face against the granting of extension in all cases as soon as the age of 55 years is attained, except in the case of officers of rare merit and ability, and that once in five or ten years.

The action of those who have it in their power to grant such extensions and show favour to undeserving men, is characterized as 'flagrant abuse of power and gross jobbery.'

1451. The *Indian Empire* would have the Government raise the Forest School at Dehra Dun to the status of a College, and attach to it a number of guaranteed appointments of the rank of Assistant Conservator to be recruited from the students of the College, just as the Engineering Colleges at Roorkee and Sibpur and the College of Science of Poona, furnish recruits for the superior ranks of the Public Works Department. As at present constituted, the students of the school can only attain to the position of an Extra Assistant in the Provincial Branch.

1452. The following is taken from the *Indian Empire*:—
The Post office and newspapers. "The Indian press has never been an object of love to the high officials. Most of them regard it as a nuisance, while some, owing to their personal acts and doings being reviewed in its columns, take it as an object of hatred. We hear the Director-General of Post-offices, India, has decided that the 'Supplement' of registered newspapers should not consist wholly of advertisement, but it should be a genuine supplementary issue of a newspaper consisting of matter like that of a newspaper. Price-lists and leaflets, forming no part of the issue of registered newspapers, will not in future be admitted as supplement to the said newspaper. This means a fresh loss to the newspapers which are already, in most cases, losing concerns."

1453. Referring to Lord Ampthill's remark that it is very rare for the police to belie the great confidence that the people repose in it, the *Indian Empire* says that the experience of the people of this country has been to the contrary as far as the Indian Police Department is concerned. The people of Bengal, or for the matter of that of any other province, have not very pleasant memories in this respect. Of all the departments of Government, the Police Department requires to be looked after. The inefficiency of the Department is a by-word in Bengal. And moreover, if that Department merited so high a praise, the public would at least have been spared the scandals of the "Chapra" and "Noakhali" cases.

1454. The *Indian Empire*, remarking that "in all other cases of Mr. Pennell, connected or unconnected with the murder case, which came up on appeal to the High Court at the same time, Mr. Pennell's decisions have been set aside and he has been roundly taken to task for the way in which he decided the cases," wishes to know the cause of this change in the opinion of the High Court as regards Mr. Pennell's ability as a Judge, "when we remember that with a solitary exception, not a single one of his decisions had ever been set aside on appeal during the whole of his service."

The *Empire* is bound, however, to accept the decisions of the High Court as correct, "no matter if the prevailing opinion is that the Judges have not been above a suspicion of prejudice in this unfortunate affair;" but remarks

INDIAN NATION,
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INDIAN EMPIRE,
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that what is of real moment to the public is not whether *Salik Ali* and his co-accused have been convicted or acquitted, as Mr. Roily has been. "Even greater sinners, even greater perjurers and forgers, assuming that the Sessions Judge was correct in his suspicion, are escaping daily scot-free." The public is concerned with the indirect issues in the case; with the executive interference with the judicial functions of a Judge, the executive oppression upon a judicial officer for the conscientious discharge of his judicial duties. What of these issues? The High Court's refusal to adjudicate upon this matter is deplored, as the opportunity presented will not recur in a lifetime.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1901.

1455. One Promotha Nath Roy, M.A., writes a long letter to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, protesting against the proposed breaking up of the Bankura district, which he refers to as "the horrible plan adopted by the Bengal Government for the convenience of the mercantile community."

This correspondent's suggestion is that, if any change is necessary, Asansol with Ranigunge should be made a subdivision of Bankura, and the Khatra thana be removed to Manbhum, and Kotulpur to Burdwan.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1901.

1456. The *Bengalee* thinks that the administration of the Arms Act in Midnapore was one of the greatest grievances discussed by the Provincial Conference. This Act, which institutes irritating distinctions of race, should be administered with some consideration for those concerned, but in Midnapore the authorities have deliberately set themselves the task of making the administration of the Act as unpopular and troublesome as possible.

The grievance of gun-owners are principally that every one of them, regardless of position or sex, is made to attend personally, and frequently kept waiting for hours on account of the non-attendance of the Magistrate.

AMRITA BAZAR,
PATRIKA,
4th May 1901.

1457. A correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reports that, on the 28th ultimo, something like a panic was caused in the Motihari town by vaccinators going round to vaccinate, accompanied by constables. It was only by the tact and timely arrival of the local Police Sub-Inspector that serious trouble was averted.

The correspondent asks why Colonel Swaine, the Civil Surgeon, did not himself accompany the vaccinators and explain matters to the people. The presence of the police led the ignorant people to believe that it was "plague vaccine" that the vaccinators were trying to force on them.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th May 1901.

1458. "One of the reasons advanced against a Technical Institute," says the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* "is that only an infinitesimal minority, per annum, of youths of India will thereby be educated or benefited." But it is the cultivation of the intellectual powers of a few that in civilized countries becomes the means of creating new industries, as is instanced by Boyer's discovery of the artificial production of indigo.

"India is the only country in the British Empire where neither the Government nor the people have done anything towards the development of technical education. The result is that our industries have been killed, and the country has become the permanent abode of famines and converted into a huge charnel-house."

The *Patrika* then appeals to Lord Curzon to add to the thirty lakhs offered by Mr. Tata, a portion of the Victoria Memorial Fund, and thus, without spending a pice of State money, "grant this universal prayer of the nation."

III.—LEGISLATION.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd May 1901.

1459. The *Hindoo Patriot* asks the Government to make a further expansion of Legislative Councils and widen and enlarge their scope and grant the right of discussion over subject matters of interpellation. It is urged that questions lose their force when not attended by free discussions, and that, if this were granted, the benefit to be derived would be large indeed. It is also desired that the power which enables the Government to decline to answer a question should be withdrawn.

The writer entertains no fear that the extension of the privilege advocated would impede the administration of the country, and points, in proof of this, to the opposition of the non-officials to the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

1460. The *Indian Nation* publishes a letter from a Hindu boarder of the Oxford Mission Hostel, stating that no Hindu receives instruction in Christianity unless he asks for it, and no attacks are made on the Hindu religion unless in argument during such voluntary instruction. Mohendro Babu, the convert, has been twice to see his mother and relations, and was freely visited at the Mission House by his relatives and friends.

INDIAN NATION,
29th April 1901.

1461. The *Bengalee* hears that in Brindaban persons unwilling to subscribe to the Victoria Memorial Fund are being ill-treated by the police and compelled to subscribe. Such a piece of news ought to at once attract the notice of His Excellency.

BENGALÉE,
4th May 1901.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 11th May 1901.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.

